(a) whether it is a fact that China wanted to set up software station in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision Government has taken on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There is no such proposal of the Department of Information Technology (DIT). DIT deals with the matter relating to Software Technology Parks.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Do-Not-Call registry scheme

1110. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the efficacy of the Do-Not-Call registry scheme launched a year ago, to save telephone subscribers from unwanted calls by telemarketeers;

(b) whether the working group of RBI has opined that it might not be advisable to ban all telemarketing calls as a large number of people are in favour of receiving such calls;

(c) whether in total negation of the purpose of Do-Not-Call registry scheme Government has now come forward with Do-Call registry; and

(d) if so, the rationale behind such a step?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir, in the last one year of operation of National Do-Not-Call (NDNC) registry, there has been a significant reduction in the number of telemarketing calls to the registered subscribers of NDNC registry.

(b) Yes, Sir. In the "Report of the Working Group on Regulatory Mechanism for Cards" of RBI, it has been opined that....." it may not be advisable to ban all call by telephone/cellphone for the purpose of marketing, since this is an important marketing tool and number of people (both existing and potential customers) are in favour of receiving calls regarding new products/information update on existing products, for the members of the public who do not wish to receive such calls a mechanism has to be introduced to protect their privacy".

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

National integrated directory enquiry service

1111. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has plans to introduce a National Integrated Directory Enquiry Service (NIDQS) for mobile and fixed lines that envisages a separate access code for local directory enquiry service and national directory enquiry service and yellow pages for subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the new plan, access code for local/national directory enquiry has been proposed as below:

The access code will be 1ABLX,

Where 1AB is code for service access

L = 0 National Directory Enquiry/Yellow Pages Enquiry

= 1 Local Enquiry

X is Operator code for National Directory Enquiry Service Provider.

India's tele-density

1112. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's tele-density is just over 20 per cent and only 60 per cent of the population have access to a telephone;

(b) whether a good amount of money is idling in USO kitty and if it is pumped back into the telecom sector, it can address the urban-rural divide to a large extent;

(c) if so, the details of such amount so lying idle; and

(d) the action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. The tele-density in India as on 31st October 2008 stands at 31.50% with 363.95 million total telephone subscribers in the country, As fer as access to a telephone is concerned, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has provided telephone facility in 624 district head-quarters (DHQs), 1733 sub-divisional head-quarters (SDHQs), 2806 tehsil head-quarters (THQs), 6169 block head-quarters (BHQs) and 5,21,911 villages out of 624 DHQs, 1735 SDHQs, 2827 THQs, 6180 BHQs and 5,93,601 villages respectively, as on 31.08.2008.